

The Presiding Officer will recognize that three of us in this group are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons to which Mr. Lebed pointedly refers, and the other two are Jews: Mr. LIEBERMAN, who practices an orthodox fashion of his religion as faithfully as anyone ever has, and Mr. SPECTER, whose father was born in Russia and forced out of Russia because of the anti-Semitism in that country. And Senator SPECTER continues to practice his Jewish religion.

Senator SPECTER and I have been to Russia together, and we have visited with high officials in the Russian Government and Russian regime. At the time, we were both welcomed, and we both felt we were contributing to a greater degree of understanding of the two nations.

Now, with this kind of statement, I would realize that if I went back to Russia, I would be labeled "mold and scum" because of my religious position, and Senator SPECTER would have every reason to raise the question of what would happen to him in a modern Russia if this kind of thing is allowed to go unchallenged.

One final comment. For many, many years, the Mormons were excluded from Russia and had no contact there. It was during the time when Mikhail Gorbachev was the head of the Soviet Union that the Government reached out and recognized Mormonism as a religion and invited Mormons to come to Russia. From that time until this, the Mormons have been in Russia and have had a very welcomed response on the part of the Russian people. There are now over 5,000 native Russians who have joined with the Mormon Church in Russia who have reason to feel very, very much threatened by this kind of formal statement.

So, Mr. President, as I said, Senators HATCH, LIEBERMAN, REID, and SPECTER will be joining with me in putting forth an official protest in this matter, but I wanted to bring it to the attention of the Senate in this Chamber this afternoon.

Mr. NUNN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). The time of the Senator has expired. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. NUNN. I am pleased by the statement of the Senator from Utah today because I found the comments that I read in the paper attributed to Mr. Lebed both disturbing and very dangerous. I'm hoping that President Yeltsin and others will denounce this kind of rhetoric, which, no matter what its purpose, if it was simply posturing for political purposes leading up to the election, is inexcusable language. It can set up very dangerous kinds of activities in Russia against Mormons, against Jews, and against others.

I think it is very timely for the Senator to make this announcement. I identify with his statement, and I hope

there will be corrective action taken by the Russian officials in terms of making it clear that this kind of rhetoric is unacceptable.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] as well for his statement. I read the statement that was attributed to General Lebed this morning in the paper, and I must say I was surprised by it. It is an obnoxious statement. It should not be allowed to stand without a reaction from those of us in this country who feel strongly about that kind of statement from wherever it emanates. I salute the Senator from Utah for his strong statement on the floor today.

Mr. President, when I was in high school, I played on a Mormon softball team. I do not know how they let somebody raised in the Presbyterian Church, later a Unitarian, play on the Mormon team, but I had a great association with Mormons. We do not have many in North Dakota, but we had a close association built up through that activity. We had a pretty good softball team as well. They were some of the finest people with whom I have ever been associated.

I think the statement by General Lebed is one that requires condemnation, and I am pleased to join my voice to those that have already been raised in objection to the really outrageous language that was used at least in the statement attributed to General Lebed. If those are not his words, he ought to quickly correct the record. If those are his words, he ought to apologize.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Georgia and the Senator from North Dakota for their expressions of support. I am very grateful for that, as I am sure are all other individuals who have been outraged by the statements attributed to General Lebed.

I might say to the Senator from North Dakota, I am sure he hit the ball pretty well, which is why they had him on the team, in addition to his good personality and friendship. These teams are open to everybody, but they are open more to people who can play well and not people like myself who get in the way.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4420

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, at this time I would like to send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is laid aside. The clerk will report.

The assistant clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] proposes an amendment numbered 4420.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of Subtitle C of Title II, insert the following:

SEC. . AIR FORCE NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE PLAN.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Air Force proposal for a Minuteman based national missile defense system is an important national missile defense option and is worthy of serious consideration; and

(2) the Secretary of Defense should give the Air Force national missile defense proposal full consideration.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the enactment of this act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide the Congressional Defense Committees a report on the following matters in relation to the Air Force National Missile Defense Proposal:

(1) The cost and operational effectiveness of a system that could be developed pursuant to the Air Forces' plan.

(2) The Arms Control implications of such system.

(3) Growth potential to meet future threats.

(4) The Secretary's recommendation for improvements to the Air Force's plan.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, this is the amendment we discussed earlier that says the Air Force plan for national missile defense is an important option and is worthy of serious consideration, and that the Secretary of Defense should give the Air Force national missile defense proposal full consideration.

It further calls on the Secretary of Defense to produce a report within 120 days on the following matters in relation to the Air Force national missile defense proposal:

First, the cost and operational effectiveness of a system that could be developed pursuant to the Air Force plan;

Second, the arms control implications of such a system;

Third, the growth potential to meet future threats;

And finally, fourth, the Secretary's recommendation for improvements to the Air Force's plan.

I do not think too much more needs to be said. I outlined at some length earlier what I think are the great strengths of the Air Force plan: First, it is treaty compliant; second, it is affordable; third, it uses existing technology.

I ask for support from my colleagues for this amendment and ask for its consideration at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment? The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, this amendment has been worked on carefully by both sides of the aisle. It calls attention of the Congress and the American people to the Air Force proposal for a Minuteman-based national defense system. It states this is an important national missile defense option worthy of serious consideration. I certainly concur in that. Then it calls for a report.

I urged adoption of the amendment. I think the Senator should be commended for bringing this to our attention and bringing it to the attention of the American people. I think this is an option that deserves serious consideration.

I urge the amendment be adopted.

Mr. MCCAIN. I echo the views of the Senator from Georgia; however, we do have an objection from our cloakroom. So I ask unanimous consent to set the Conrad amendment aside so we can get whatever that objection is worked out. I appreciate the patience of my friend from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing none, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. LEVIN. Will the Senator withhold that?

Mr. CONRAD. I will be pleased to withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I, at this time, engage in a colloquy with Senators MCCAIN and NUNN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

F-16'S AND HELICOPTERS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, very briefly, I was considering offering an amendment which would have attempted to remove some of the funds in this authorization bill for two F-16's which were not requested by the Air Force either in the original budget request or in the supplemental list requested by the Committee, what we sometimes call, wish list of the Air Force. These are two F-16's which appear in none of the Air Force requests to this body, either the formal budget or the later so-called wish list.

It was also my intent to try to remove the approximately \$120 million for conversion kits for the OH-58 helicopters, the so-called AHIP's, which also was not requested by the Army either in its original budget request or in the supplemental wish list which it submitted at our request.

I have been supported in this effort by Senator NUNN and Senator MCCAIN. What I have decided, and they concur, is that I not make the effort to offer this amendment on the authorization bill but will make any such effort during the appropriations process. I think they are supportive of this approach.

I yield to them for any comments they might wish to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I support the Senator on this. I believe we voted on this in committee. It was a very close vote, as I recall. There is a divided committee on this one. Both in the case of the Air Force, where the number of F-16's exceeds the Air Force request, not only their request but their informal guidance, and in the case of the helicopters, where this exceeds the Army request, I think there is serious doubt that this is the highest priority for our funding. This probably comes under the category "nice to have but not essential."

I join the Senator in this. I am sure I will be supporting his amendment on the appropriations bill when it comes up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to express my appreciation to the Senator from Michigan for significant progress in this effort in trying to do away with this practice, which has been going on so long, of earmarking for the Guard and Reserve. I think we are making progress in that direction. I found it one of the more egregious practices that we have engaged in. I thank him for his efforts in that area.

I also agree with him, when we start adding on equipment, even though I might point out all F-16 training takes place in the State of Arizona, without justification or request from the Department of Defense, I think we skew the process. I know there were requests from the Department of Defense for procurement of things that we decided not to do, not to put into the authorization bill. So I do not understand, unless we can make a compelling argument, which we can from time to time, that this is not needed or that this equipment is needed, that it is not appropriate. I must say I saw no argument made for these add-ons of the F-16's and helicopters. I agree with Senator LEVIN.

Could I just say, overall, also, thanks to the efforts of Senator LEVIN and Senator NUNN and Senator THURMOND and Senator WARNER and others, I think we are making progress in reducing this kind of thing. I hope we can continue to make the effort both in the authorization and the appropriations process. Frankly, what the Senator from Michigan has done by putting some sunshine on the issue is the best way we are going to cure it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Let me close by thanking my good friend from Arizona and the Senator from Georgia. Both have been active in trying to avoid these kind of add-ons. If I could single out in this body, particularly the Senator from Arizona, he has taken extraordinarily courageous positions in a

whole host of areas, some of which even affect his own State, where the Congress has been adding on items which just simply cannot be justified in terms of the requirements of the military. I commend both of them for their support.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4422 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4388

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, there is pending an amendment by the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD, amendment No. 4422. We have reached an agreement.

I send an amendment to the desk as a substitute for the one presently there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] proposes an amendment numbered 4422 to amendment No. 4388.

The amendment is as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 223. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF F/A-18E/F AIRCRAFT PROGRAM.

(a) REPORT ON PROGRAM.—Not later than March 30, 1997, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the F/A-18E/F aircraft program.

(b) CONTENT OF REPORT.—The report shall contain the following:

(1) A review of the F/A-18E/F aircraft program.

(2) An analysis and estimate of the production costs of the program for the total number of aircraft realistically expected to be procured at each of three annual production rates as follows:

(A) 18 aircraft.

(B) 24 aircraft.

(C) 36 aircraft.

(3) A comparison of the costs and benefits of the program with the costs and benefits of the F/A-18C/D aircraft program taking into account the operational combat effectiveness of the aircraft.

(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS PENDING TRANSMITTAL OF REPORT.—No more than 90% of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended for the procurement of F/A-18E/F aircraft before the date that is 30 days after the date on which the congressional defense committees receive the report required under subsection(a).

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the amendment sent to the desk is in the nature of a substitute. It has been accepted on both sides. I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the substitute amendment, amendment No. 4422.

The amendment (No. 4422) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the first-degree amendment, No. 4388, as now amended.

Mr. WARNER. I urge adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4388), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in earlier days of my Senate career, I recall that prior to the Independence Day break, Senators would comment on that great and forthcoming historic day. Seeing no Senator who seeks recognition at this time, I shall take advantage of the opportunity to do a little reminiscing in contemplation of the forthcoming 220th anniversary of our own Nation's birthday.

In a few days, this fair city will throw its annual birthday party. Truly, the Independence Day celebration here in the Nation's Capital, is like nowhere else in the country. It is larger, louder, and features a fireworks display to amaze and delight even the most jaded of watchers.

And I think we all have become jaded. We have gotten away from the old-fashioned patriotism that marked our July 4 holidays of yesteryear. In the national capital, Independence Day really should be a show stopper—a sight and sound extravaganza fit for TV viewing.

While not many things are fit for TV viewing—I should not say it that way—I should say TV viewing is not fit anymore, except on certain occasions, but this is an event that is, indeed, fit for TV viewing.

But, in all honesty, I must admit that it is not my cup of tea. No, I prefer to recall a simpler time and smaller celebrations back in the hills and hollows, and the rural towns of my native West Virginia.

The high school band would don its very best regalia, shine up its buttons and march down the dusty small streets lined with moms and dads, children perched atop shoulders so that they could see and point fingers as the parade went by. The baton twirlers would twirl their batons and step high.

Young boys and girls would run along-side just to be part of the spec-

tacle. Meanwhile, the ice cream cones would drip, drip in the sultry heat, seemingly keeping time with the marchers as they proudly passed by.

Somewhere nearby, perhaps inside a church, cakes, pies, fried chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans and hot barbecue, and a cold Coca-Cola awaited all who felt inclined to take part in the holiday feast.

And those were the days, Mr. President, when a Coca-Cola really tasted—really tasted—unique, and had an unforgettable flavor. Coca-Cola's today do not taste like they did, like a 5-cent bottle of Coca-Cola did back in the days of my boyhood.

And in the evening, a fireworks display, lasting all of 15 minutes, perhaps 20, and boasting at least three different colors in the night sky would captivate all who could stand in a nearby field or climb the lower branches of a not-too-distant tree.

There was pride and happiness on every face, then respectful silence when the stars and stripes was hoisted high and we all thanked God that we were free.

The stars and stripes fluttering in the breeze. There is just nothing like it. I contemplate those ancient Fourth of July.

I am confident that in the many small towns in my home State and in many other States, the Fourth of July celebration is still much like those that I remember—a joyful, yet thoughtful reflection on our blessed freedoms.

And in the midst of all the small-town hoopla, in these communities, the traditional customs and values which have been the fabric of American society over these 220 years are still preserved and revered.

In this vast, vast Nation which has come to be so dissimilar from one coast to another, and with an economy so diverse that interests seem always to be at war for some kind of advantage, nothing is needed more than are reminders of our common bonds and traditions.

This Nation is an ongoing experiment in making one out of many—"e pluribus unum," as our coins proclaim. Our intricate constitutional system of government tries to combine diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds, competing economic interests, and dissimilar geographic areas into some semblance of manageable commonality, while also attempting to guarantee individual freedoms without undermining the rule of law. Meanwhile, our all too distracted citizens are preoccupied with raising a family, earning a living, and coping daily with the increasing complexity of ordinary life. At times we seem less like a cohesive Nation and more like a collection of continually warring tribes.

Often, especially in this city, there is so much political sniping, so much game-playing, so much negativity and criticism that it seems as if the focus is always on what is wrong with America or what is faulty about our system.

So we all need to stop and contemplate and think and remember on that day, the Fourth of July, and ponder the miracle of Philadelphia: the republic—not the democracy—the Republic of the United States.

Anymore it is only on such special days that we cease the constant barrage of criticism and together appreciate the sweet air of our freedom. Would any of us really choose to live elsewhere? I think not.

On this coming Independence Day, I hope we pause and think about the things that unite us as a people, rather than about the things that seem to divide us. Perhaps also on that day we can spend some time with children and grandchildren, turn off—turn off—the TV sets, turn them off, and hopefully leave them off and actually talk with one another. Maybe some can even find time to go stand on the sidewalk, view that small, local parade, the kind they have in Kentucky and West Virginia, and, just for a moment, be completely swept away by the sight of our glorious flag as it goes by.

Hats off!

Along the street there comes

A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,

A flash of color beneath the sky:

Hats off!

The flag is passing by!

Blue and crimson and white it shines,

Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.

Hats off!

The colors before us fly;

But more than the flag is passing by:

Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,

Fought to make and to save the State;

Weary marches, sinking ships;

Cheers of victory on dying lips:

Days of plenty and years of peace;

March of a strong land's swift increase;

Equal justice, right and law,

Stately honor and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation great and strong

To ward her people from foreign wrong:

Pride and glory and honor,—all

Live in the colors to stand or fall.

Hats off!

Along the street there comes

A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;

And loyal hearts are beating high:

Hats off!

The flag is passing by!

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4420

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I am happy to say the objection to the Conrad amendment has been removed. I had spoken with Senator CONRAD. I do